



*In Loving Memory of*

*Violet Bailey Cornelison*

November 7, 1903 - May 16, 1994



*Friday, May 20, 1994*

11:00 A.M.

*Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church*

142 Maple Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey

REV. DR. LLOYD P. TERRELL  
OFFICIATING



## *The Obituary*

**VIOLET B. CORNELISON** was born November 7, 1903 in Statesville, North Carolina. The daughter of the late Rev. Thomas R. Bailey and Mrs. Violet Bailey, she was one of three children born to that union -- including, Thomas R. Jr. and the late Louise Bailey Greene. She departed this life on Tuesday, May 16, 1994 at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey, after a lingering illness.

The daughter of an Episcopal minister in a small southern community, **VIOLET** learned early in life the importance of strict adherence to Christian teachings -- living by the Golden rule and practicing tolerance to the less fortunate ones in the community.

In 1924, **VIOLET** joined other African-Americans who left the South in search of a new life "up North" and settled in Newark, N.J., where she immediately became involved in the Black struggle for equal opportunity. A few years later, she joined Franklin-St. John's United Methodist Church, where she was a faithful and contributing member until her death.

**VIOLET** not only found a new life, but a lifelong love when she married the late Edgar S. Cornelison in 1941. They became one of the African-American homeowners on Nassau Street in East Orange, N.J. where she resided until a few years after her husband's death. It didn't take long for **VIOLET** to gain a reputation as a doer rather than a dreamer in her community, church and volunteer service. She was a hard worker and a perfectionist at whatever she undertook.

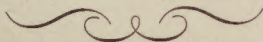
As a charter member of the National Council of Negro Women's Section of the Oranges, **VIOLET** earned the personal praise of founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune for the recruitment of young women who helped the organization grow in the formative years. She was one of the pioneers of the Life Members' Guild and was honored many times as N.C.N.W.'s most prolific ticket seller. She served as secretary and treasurer of the Section and served as Ticket Chair more times than any member in the organization's history.

**VIOLET** had the same zealous spirit of accomplishment for the women's activities at Franklin-St. John's Church, where she was a member of the Women's Guild. She held the same intensity for volunteerism.

**MRS. CORNELISON** was the matriarch of an extended family that stretches from coast to coast because caring, concern and communication made up her philosophy of life. Her community knew her as a good wife, caring mother and grandmother, concerned neighbor, counsellor and role model for young and old in Essex County and beyond. To her children and their children, she was "Mom-Mom" and "Mama Vi." To close friends and immediate family, she was "Hedgie" and "Toots." Neighbors saluted her as "Miss Violet," "Miss C" and "Lady Vi."

While perfection was a goal for **VIOLET**, she always had the tolerance to forgive those who missed the mark. She was always a doer with the quiet persistence of a dreamer. When she decided to move into a senior housing complex, she was determined not to "sit around and grow old." And as a "take charge" person, she immediately joined the Tenant's Association, the bowling league, the exercise class and generally proved to other tenants her age living in Harrison Arms that age was just a number.

She leaves many pleasant memories for her family and friends and a heritage of fierce independence as a philosophy for the good life. Her mourners include a loving daughter, Beverly J. Barker; a devoted son, Thomas Irby, Jr.; siblings, Thomas Bailey, Jr., Mesdames Eulalia Marshall, Bernice Bailey, Ursaline Watkins and Wilma Swope (all of North Carolina); grandchildren, Carolyn J. Montgomery, Patricia R. Wells, Thomas Irby, III, Leslie D. Rochester, Lynn Irby-Jackson and Sgt. 1st Class (U.S. Army) Celeste B. (Noonie) Anderson (Atlanta, Ga.); a son-in-law, David G. Barker; nine great-grandchildren: Shelly Fountain, Corey, Nikki and Walter Wells, Jr., Marcia and David Townsend, Jason and Melissa (Zee) Montgomery, and Vincent Rochester, III; and a host of other relatives and friends.



## *Order of Service*

ORGAN PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL ..... Clergy and Family

OPENING HYMN

PRAYER ..... Rev. Ruth B. Higgins

SOLO ..... "The Lord's Prayer"  
A. Jean Butler

### SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament ..... Psalm 23

New Testament ..... John 14:1-7

OBITUARY ..... Constance Woodruff

RESOLUTION ..... Josephine Wilson  
United Methodist Women

SOLO ..... "When We All Get To Heaven"  
A. Jean Butler

EULOGY ..... Rev. Dr. Lloyd P. Terrell

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL ..... "I'll Fly Away"  
Wella Chavis

### INTERMENT

Fairmount Cemetery  
Newark, New Jersey



## *Crossing The Bar*

*Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,*

*But such a tide as moving seems asleep  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.*

*Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;*

*For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.*

*... Alfred Tennyson*



### *Acknowledgement*

*The family of Violet B. Cornelison acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and concern.*



*Professional Services By:*

**James E. Churchman, Jr. Funeral Home**

**345 13th Avenue**

**Newark, New Jersey**